

MAR 13 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO RECOGNIZE
THE HISTORIC 1825 MALDEN TRAILS OF THE EWA PLAINS AND
INCLUDE THE TRAILS IN THE NA ALA HELE PROGRAM INVENTORY.

1 WHEREAS, the Malden Trails are in the ahupua'a of
2 Honouliuli, district of Ewa, and in ancient times provided very
3 important well-marked pathways for defense, communication, and
4 commerce; and

5
6 WHEREAS, historically, the Malden Trails were directly
7 linked to the Honouliuli village near the mouth of the Wai Momi
8 River, which was the ancient cultural and political population
9 center of Oahu; and

10
11 WHEREAS, these Native Hawaiian trails provided routes for
12 the important annual mauka-makai Makahiki processions in ancient
13 times, guided by celestial positions honoring the Hawaiian
14 agricultural god Lono; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the important Malden Trails are referred to in the
17 ancient one-thousand-year-old chants of Hawaiian goddess Hi'iaka
18 and in numerous later historic and cultural accounts of visitors
19 who crossed the Ewa Plain, linking Honouliuli near the mouth of
20 the Wai Momi River with Puu o Kapolei, Kahe Point, Kualaka'i, and
21 One'ula on the Ewa shore; and

22
23 WHEREAS, the ancient Hawaiian trails on the Ewa Plains were
24 first identified after Western contact on Oahu by surveyor
25 Lieutenant C.R. Malden of the Royal Navy and became known as the
26 Malden Trails after they were published in an 1825 Oahu map
27 edition as well as in numerous subsequent editions over the
28 following fifty-three years; and

29
30 WHEREAS, important ancient Hawaiian trails have been
31 successfully recognized on islands other than Oahu, particularly
32 on the island of Hawaii, where they have contributed greatly to



1 the historic and cultural heritage as well as provided
2 enjoyable, healthy recreational excursion routes for residents
3 and visitors alike; and
4

5 WHEREAS, while the ancient 1825 Malden Trails of the Ewa
6 Plains still exist, today the trails are threatened by near term
7 land development because of the lack of official recognition and
8 notification by the Na Ala Hele Trail Program; and
9

10 WHEREAS, Na Ala Hele is the state mandated trail program
11 that is in charge of registering and assisting with the
12 protection of historic Hawaiian trails; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the 1825 Malden Trails and connecting historic
15 sites provide important clues as to how West Oahu communities in
16 Honouliuli, Ewa, Puuloa, One'ula, Kualaka'i, and Waianae were
17 linked culturally, economically, and politically over past
18 centuries; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the historical trails identified by Malden later
21 became ranching and carriage routes and an important part of
22 West Oahu's one-hundred-fifty-year-old paniolo and pa'u
23 equestrian culture, linking economic settlements on the Ewa
24 Plains during the Hawaiian kingdom era; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the trails had an important Ewa Plain trail
27 junction that by 1890 became the location of the Ewa Sugar Mill
28 and Ewa Villages Plantation communities, which in turn
29 established the rationale for King Kalakaua's chartered Oahu
30 Railway to extend to the Ewa Mill station and allowed sugar cane
31 to become the major economic engine of the Ewa Plains; and
32

33 WHEREAS, in 1925, the Kualaka'i and One'ula Ewa Plain
34 shoreline trails, due to the nearby location of the Ewa
35 Plantation Mill and the Oahu Railway Ewa station, became
36 incorporated as the base boundaries of Ewa Mooring Mast Field,
37 which later became an important and historic Ewa Plain military
38 airfield; and
39

40 WHEREAS, after the closure of the Ewa Sugar Plantation and
41 Barbers Point Naval Air Station over two decades ago, the 1825
42 Malden Trails continued to be used by Ewa residents and the Ewa



1 Villages Plantation community for access to mountain and
2 shoreline access; and
3

4 WHEREAS, according to the Ewa Development Plan and Kapolei
5 Area Bikeway Plan published by the Campbell Estate in 1991,
6 trail ways are corridor opportunities to link major open spaces
7 with pedestrian and bike paths where Ewa's flat terrain offers
8 decided advantages for bicycle transportation; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the 1825 Malden Trails routes that still exist
11 also provide a link with the one-hundred-twenty-five-year-old
12 Oahu Railway right-of-way of the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail
13 Plan, which allows travel by foot, horse, or bike from Pearl
14 Harbor to Nanakuli; and
15

16 WHEREAS, numerous historic, cultural, and educational
17 features exist along the current Ewa Plain trails and provide
18 direct access to the University of Hawaii West Oahu campus, West
19 Loch Shoreline Park, Kapolei Regional Park, Ewa Mahiko Park, and
20 planned future Kalaeloa regional city parks; now, therefore,
21

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land
25 and Natural Resources is urged to recognize the historic 1825
26 Malden Trails of the Ewa Plains and include the trails in the Na
27 Ala Hele Program inventory; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
31 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
32 Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Chief Executive
33 Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Mayor of the City and
34 County of Honolulu, and Commander of Navy Region Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY: Will Eyo

